Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches
A Resolution of the Spring Bible Conference 2008
Held at Park Lane Baptist Church, Omaha, Nebraska

***Resolution* Re-affirming Our Baptist Distinctives**

WHEREAS the Bible declares that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Founder and Head of the New Testament Church, and He is the Author and Perfecter of our Christian faith and practice,

AND WHEREAS the people called Baptists have historically committed themselves to distinctively Biblical doctrines which have been encapsulated in the acrostic format such as this:

B – Biblical authority
A – Autonomy of the local church
P – Priesthood of every believer
T – Two ordinances: baptism by immersion and observance of the Lord's Supper
I – Individual Soul Liberty
S – Saved, baptized church members
T – Two offices: pastor and deacons
S - Separation of church and state

AND WHEREAS the people called Baptists have also striven to be orderly in the theological in the presentation of these Biblical distinctive, we delineate the fundamental Baptist doctrines as founded first and foremost upon divine inspiration and absolute authority of the Bible:

And, building upon this divine authority, we insist on the regenerate membership of our churches, i.e., each candidate for membership must give a credible testimony to his salvation (Acts 2:37-38, 41-42);

And, we observe regularly the two ordinances commanded by our Lord which are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper by which we remember to give testimony to our fellowship with Christ (Acts 2:37-38; 8:36-38; 16:30-34; and 1st Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26; Matthew 26:26-30);

And, we hold that every believer is a priest with free access to God through the one and only High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16), to Whom we offer sacrifices to praise (Heb 13:15);

And, we maintain that every believer has soul liberty to interpret the Scriptures for himself as led by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; 1st John 2:27);

And, we thus maintain that the local church is to be an autonomous, self-governing fellowship of believers following Christ its Head (Acts 13:1-3; 1st Corinthians 5:12; 6:1-4; Ephesians 5:23);

And, being an autonomous fellowship, we assert that the local church may enter into voluntary association with other churches of like faith and practice (Acts 15:2, 4, 6-12, 22-27; Revelation 2-3);

And, we understand from the Scriptures that the local church is to have two spiritual offices, the pastor (also called elder, overseer, and shepherd) and deacons (1st Timothy 3:1-7 and 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1st Peter 5:1-4), who are chosen by the local church to minister in the Word, prayer and service;

And, since Christ is the Head of the church, we stand for the separation of church and state, i.e., there should be no state church exercising political governance nor no government forbidding the free exercise of religion (Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 4:19; 5:29);

And we believe these distinctive compel us before the Holy One to practice Biblical separation both ecclesiastically and ethically (1st Peter 1:15-23; Romans 16:17-19; 2nd Corinthians 6:14-18) – separating ourselves ecclesiastically from those in apostasy and from those practicing the compromise of Gospel truths, and separating ethically from ungodly world systems, the lure of fleshly lifestyles, and the temptations of the devil (1st John 2:15-17; Jude 3-4, 15-16);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers in fellowship with the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 51st Annual Spring Bible Conference at Park Lane Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, April 3-4, 2008, reaffirm our commitment to the distinctive which are essential to the faith and practice of a New Testament Bible-believing Baptist Churches.

Therefore, we urge the pastors and teachers of our NARBC fellowship of churches to preach and teach these Baptist distinctive on a regular basis; and we urge the members of our NARBC churches to become familiar with these Baptist distinctive and teach them to their children; and we urge the members of our NARBC churches to do this to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the Head of the Church.